

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 CPR-01 H-01 /064 W  
-----066871 171238Z /10  
R 160615Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0244

FOR EA/ANP HURWITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, PDEV, OCLR, BP  
SUBJECT: SOLOMON ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY

REFS: A) PORT MORESBY 149 (NOTAL), B) PORT MORESBY 203  
(NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SOLOMON ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE  
CEREMONY PLANS WITH GOVERNOR, CHIEF MINISTER, HEAD OF  
SPECIALLY CREATED INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND OTHERS. THAT  
WHICH FOLLOWS REPRESENTS GSI THINKING AS OF FEBRUARY 14.  
FORMAL MEETING OF THE ABOVE TO AGREE ON FINAL PLAN HAD  
NOT YET TAKEN PLACE BUT SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF  
INDICATED BASIC CONSENSUS AMONG THEM.

2. GSI PLANS TO INVITE 24 COUNTRIES TO JULY 7 PROGRAM.  
U.S. IS INCLUDED - INVITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED BY END OF  
MARCH BY UK TO MISSIONS IN LONDON. EACH STATE WILL BE  
INVITED TO SEND ONE DELEGATE (WITH SPOUSE), POSSIBLY  
TWO (WITHOUT SPOUSES). GSI HAS REQUISITIONED HOTEL  
SPACE FOR DELEGATES AND HAS RESERVED SPACE ON FLIGHTS  
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FROM FIJI, BRISBANE AND PORT MORESBY TO HONIARA DURING  
PERIOD JULY 4-6 AND RETURN TRIPS JULY 8-9, DEPENDING UPON  
SCHEDULES.

3. ADDITIONAL U.S. DELEGATES WOULD BE MOST WELCOME BUT  
THERE ARE NO FACILITIES FOR HOUSING THEM. GSI HOLDING  
ONLY FIRST CLASS HOTEL FOR DELEGATES AND SECOND FOR MEDIA.

A REMAINING THIRD CLASS HOTEL HAS BEEN BOOKED BY MEMBERS OF MARINE RAIDERS ASSOCIATION (U.S. VETS OF GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN). GSI WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO HAVE REPS ALSO FROM PEACE CORPS, ONLY USG AGENCY IN SOLOMONS, AND U.S. MARINE CORPS AND NAVY. SOLOMON ISLAND OFFICIALS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, STRONGLY DESIRE PRESENCE OF SALUTING U.S. NAVAL VESSEL AT INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WILL HAVE SHIPS THERE. EMBASSY REITERATES ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT U.S. SEND NAVAL VESSEL. A SHIP IS NEEDED TO HOUSE AN APPROPRIATE U.S. DELEGATION AND THERE ARE FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD WHERE SUCH A PRESENCE WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL. IRON BOTTOM SOUND, SITE OF ONE OF WWII'S MAJOR NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS, IS WITHIN SIGHT OF HONIARA AND THE CAPITAL ITSELF GREW OUT OF THE THE U.S. NAVY FACILITY BUILT IN 1942 AT POINT CRUZ, NOW HONIARA'S PORT AREA.

4. THE SUBJECT OF A U.S. GIFT WAS RAISED BY THE HEAD OF THE INDEPENDENCE PLANNING OFFICE WHO URGED THAT THE GIFT BE SOMETHING USEFUL AND PRACTICAL. MOST APPRECIATED WOULD BE A FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCE, A CONTRIBUTION OF BOOKS OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP FUND. NEW ZEALAND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IS GIVING LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY FOR THE ASSEMBLY SO USG GIFT, IF BOOKS, SHOULD HAVE DIFFERENT ORIENTATION. GUADALCANAL VETERANS HAVE A CONTINUING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HANDLED IN HONIARA BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE WARTIME COMRADES ASSOCIATION BUT THE FUNDS ARE VERY LIMITED. WE BELIEVE ANY OF THE GIFTS SUGGESTED WOULD BE BOTH APPROPRIATE AND MUCH MORE MEANINGFUL THAN A PURELY SYMBOLIC GIFT. SOLOMON ISLANDERS NOT AWARE OF POSSIBILITY OF OUR ALSO PRODUCING FILM AS INDEPENDENCE GIFT AND EMBOFF DID NOT RAISE SUBJECT.

5. FINALLY, GSI HOPING THAT, IF NAVAL VISIT POSSIBLE, THAT A BAND COME ALONG. ONLY BAND IN SOLOMONS IS POLICE BAND, WHICH WAS GIVEN INSTRUMENTS IN 1977 BY MARINE RAIDERS ASSOCIATION.

6. AMERICAN VETERAN GROUPS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE HILL, URGING MEANINGFUL U.S. PARTICIPATION. A NATION LIKE THE SOLOMON ISLANDS NORMALLY WOULD NOT WARRANT A LARGE U.S. EFFORT BUT OUR HISTORY AND THEIRS IS TIED BY A UNIQUE BOND AND A SIZABLE NUMBER OF U.S. CITIZENS WILL BE LOOKING TO US TO MAKE AN EFFORT BEYOND THAT DICTATED BY EITHER SI'S IMPORTANCE OR PURELY PROTOCOLARY CONSIDERATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS  
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**Draft Date:** 16 feb 1978  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOLOMON ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PDEV, OCLR, BP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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